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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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May 19, 2010

Mr. Jeffery Smisek
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Continental Airlines
1600 Smith Street
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Mr. Smisek:

As you are aware, the Committee plans to hold a hearing on Competition in the Airline Industry. One of the topics we expect to consider as part of the hearing is further consolidation in the industry and we expect you to appear as a witness at this hearing. As part of our Committee's preparation for the hearing, we request that you provide answers to the following questions in writing to the Committee:

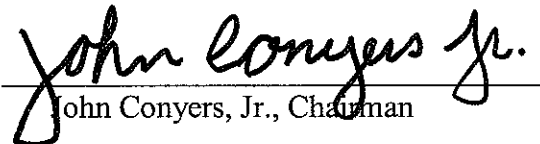
1. In any merger, the merging firms always tout "efficiencies," which often means employees will lose their jobs. What guarantees can you provide the Committee that there will be no job losses associated with this merger?
2. Aside from any proposed job reductions, please explain what efficiencies the companies expect to be gained from the merger and how these cost savings will be passed along to consumers.
3. We understand that you have decided that the corporate headquarters of the new company will be in Chicago, Illinois and not in Houston, Texas. Will this result in any loss of jobs in Houston? How many and what types of positions will be eliminated? Will any of these jobs be union jobs?
4. After a merger such as this, the combined company will be required to combine salary structures and employee benefits. Some companies force employees to accept the lower of the two systems. Will you guarantee that you will offer employees of the combined company the higher of the two systems? Will you guarantee that no employee's pension plan will be reduced or eliminated as a result of this merger?


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5. We understand that after the merger the company will have eight hubs. Many have speculated that this merger will result in one or more of these hubs being eliminated. Can you commit that the company will not close any hubs? If not, which hubs do you intend to close? Will any of the employees at these hubs be offered the opportunity to transfer to other locations?
6. Please provide a list of all airports in which the companies both have gates as well as any plans you have to engage in a gate swap with any other airline as a result of this merger. Further provide a list of all routes in which the companies offer overlapping service.
7. Access to affordable airfare is a necessity to the flying public, and yet this merger will reduce the options that consumers have in some markets. What assurances can you provide the Committee that prices will not increase because of this merger? Please provide a list of any market in which the number of commercial options will be reduced from 3-2 or 2-1 as a result of this merger.
8. What service changes can we expect to see as a result of the merger? Specifically, will any routes have service reduced or eliminated?
9. What will be the effect on support businesses, such as food service and baggage handlers, who may not be employed by Continental or United but who may be impacted by the merger? How many of these types of jobs do you expect will be eliminated?

In order to give the Committee an opportunity to consider your response prior to the hearing, please provide the answers as soon as possible, and not later than Tuesday, May 25th, 2010.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr., Chairman


Henry "Hank" C. Johnson, Jr., Chairman
Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy

cc: Lamar Smith, Ranking Member
Howard Coble, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Courts
and Competition Policy